## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 04331 111554Z ACTION EUR-12

R 111555Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: TENNECO-CASE ACQUISITION OF PROCLAIN

REF: (A) PARIS 2608; (B) PARIS 3836

- 1. ON FEBRUARY 10, PHILIP WOLF, PRESIDENT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CASE FRANCE, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT TENNECO-CASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOF FOR ACQUISITION OF PROCLAIN S.A. AND ITS FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES HAVE TAKEN FAVORABLE TURN. TENNECO PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SCREENED BY MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY. ONLY UNRESOLVED ISSUE BETWEEN TENNECO AND GOF IS PERCENTAGE INTEREST OF TENNECO IN FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES OF PROCLAIN. TENNECO IS INSISTING ON 100 PERCENT CONTROL OF SUBSIDIARIES (COMMERCIAL OUTLETS IN FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES) AS SINE QUA NON FOR ACQUISITION. ISSUE HAS BEEN BUCKED TO PM AND ELYSEES, WHERE POSITION UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN THAT MORE THAN 40 PERCENT INTEREST BY TENNECO IN PROCLAIN AND/OR ITS FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES WOULD COMPROMISE FRENCH CHARACTER OF FIRM AND FAIL TO ASSURE MAINTENANCE OF PROCLAIN PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE.
- 2. WOLF BELIEVES TENNECO-CASE PROPOSAL HAS SUPPORT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY ON TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL PLANE, BUT THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOW MOVING TO THE FOREGROUND. HOWEVER, THE ECONOMIC LOGIC OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION FOR PROCLAIN AND NEED FOR RAPID ACTION BY PROCLAIN TO AVOID BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING STILL MILITATE IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

3. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO CLOSELY MONITOR PROPOSED MERGER, BUT IS TAKING NO ACTIVE ROLE IN TENNECO-GOF NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: BUSINESS MERGERS, SUBSIDIARIES, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: TENNECO-CASE ACQUISITION OF PROCLAIN

TAGS: ETRD, FR, TENNECO, PROCLAIM S A

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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